(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to introduce a new scheme of educational libraries in the schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A composite scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools" has been recently formulated by clubbing the following schemes which were being implemented by the Department of Secondary & Higher Education:—

(i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools;

(ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education;

(iii) National Population Education Project;

(iv) Introduction of Yoga in schools; and

(v) International Science Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics.

It has been decided to utilize the allocation of Rs. 5.00 crore made by the Planning Commission for the new component for "Improvement of educational libraries" for the purpose of science education under the component of Improvement of Science Education in Schools. The total 10th Plan Outlay for the scheme of Quality Improvement in Schools is Rs. 115.00 crores.

It has also been decided to transfer the component "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as State Sector Scheme. It has further been decided that the other four components would be administered by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous body under the Department of Secondary & Higher Education.

English as a compulsory subject

515. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT has recommended to make English a compulsory subject from class one in all the schools;

\

(b) whether such a move would perpetuate the advantage of the urban and elite upper class population who are already having over the rural masses who are still struggling to secure right for literacy and primary education; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that scarce funds are not frittered away on experimental projects benefiting the urban populace and that the on going Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is backed up with more funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While making a reference to the popular demand for English at the primary level, the National Curriculum Framework 2005 prepared by the NCERT clearly states that the study of English will become meaningful and effective only when it succeeds in finding its place along with other Indian languages. The Government is providing adequate funds to ensure successful implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Grading system for examination

516. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBSE is introducing a nine-point grading system for Class X examinations;

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any guidelines for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have set any time-frame to introduce this system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI Md. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.